

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A conveyor system comprising:
a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;
a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt and having a rotational axis; and
a roller support system comprising at least one wall with an axial extent parallel to the rotational axis and which confines downward movement of the first roller in the event that the first roller becomes disengaged from the operative position,
the roller support system defining at least one elongate opening with a length extending substantially parallel to the rotational axis of the first roller through which foreign matter separated from the first roller can pass,
the one opening having a width transverse to the length of the one opening that is substantially uniform and continuous over a substantial portion of the axial extent of the one wall.
2. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the roller support system defines an upwardly opening trough-shaped receptacle for the first roller.
3. (currently amended) The conveyor system according to claim 2 wherein the trough-shaped receptacle has a top and bottom and the ~~at least~~ one opening is defined toward the bottom of the receptacle so that the at least one wall guides foreign matter separated from the first roller downwardly towards the at least one opening, the one wall

having a solid construction without openings therethrough along at least a portion thereof extending fully from the top of the trough-shaped receptacle up to the one opening.

4. (currently amended) conveyor system comprising:

a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;

a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and

a roller support system comprising at least one wall which confines downward movement of the first roller in the event that the first roller becomes disengaged from the operative position,

the roller support system defining at least one opening through which foreign matter separated from the first roller can pass,

wherein the first roller has a first axis about which the first roller rotates and the roller support system comprises a first blade that is movable around a second axis that is substantially parallel to the first axis.

5. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 4 wherein the roller support system comprises a second blade that is movable independently of the first blade around a third axis that is substantially parallel to the first axis.

6. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 5 wherein the first blade has a first free end, the second blade has a first free end, and the at least one opening is defined between the first free ends of the first and second blades.

7. (Currently amended) A conveyor system comprising:
a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;
a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and
a roller support system comprising at least one wall which confines downward movement of the first roller in the event that the first roller becomes disengaged from the operative position,
the roller support system defining at least one opening through which foreign matter separated from the first roller can pass,
wherein the roller support system comprises a first blade and the first blade has a first free end that bears against the first roller.

8. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 7 wherein the first blade has a second free end that bears against the conveying belt.

9. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 8 wherein the first roller has a first axis and the first blade is pivotable around a second axis that is parallel to the first axis.

10. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 9 wherein the first blade has a concave surface opening toward the first axis.

11. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 9 wherein the second axis resides between the first and second free ends of the first blade.

12. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 9 wherein the first blade has a thickness that diminishes from the second axis toward the first free end of the first blade.

13. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 8 wherein the first roller has a first axis, the first blade is movable around a second axis that is parallel to the first axis, and the first blade has a thickness that diminishes from the second axis toward the second free end of the first blade.

14. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the travel path includes an underside path portion and the first roller bears against the conveying belt at the underside path portion.

15. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the travel path includes a conveying path portion and the first roller bears against the conveying path portion.

16. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the roller support system comprises first and second independent blades.

17. (Currently amended) A conveyor system comprising:
a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;
a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against
the conveying belt; and

a roller support system comprising at least one wall which confines downward
movement of the first roller in the event that the first roller becomes disengaged from the
operative position,

the roller support system defining at least one opening through which foreign matter
separated from the first roller can pass,

wherein the roller support system comprises first and second independent blades,

wherein the at least one wall is defined by the first and second blades and the first
and second blades cooperatively define a trough-shaped receptacle for the first roller.

18. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 17 wherein the at least
one opening is defined between the first and second blades.

19. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the roller
support system bears against the conveying belt.

20. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 1 wherein the at least one
wall comprises a urethane material.

21. (Currently amended) A conveyor system comprising:

a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path and having oppositely facing first and second surfaces, with the first surface supporting objects/materials to be conveyed by the conveyor system;

a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and

a first blade comprising a single piece that bears against the first roller and the first surface on the conveying belt to strip foreign matter from the first roller and conveying belt.

22. (Previously presented) A conveyor system comprising:

a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;

a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and

a first blade that bears against the first roller and the conveying belt to strip foreign matter from the first roller and conveying belt,

wherein the first roller has a first axis and the first blade is movable around a second axis that is substantially parallel to the first axis.

23. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 22 wherein the first blade has a first free end that bears against the first roller and a second free end that bears against the conveying belt and the second axis resides between the first and second free ends.

24. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 23 wherein the first blade has a thickness that diminishes from the second axis towards the first free end of the first blade.

25. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 24 wherein the first blade has a thickness that diminishes from the second axis toward the second free end of the first blade.

26. (previously presented) A conveyor system comprising:
a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;
a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and
a first blade that bears against the first roller and the conveying belt to strip foreign matter from the first roller and conveying belt,
wherein the first roller has a first axis and the first blade has a concave surface opening toward the first axis.

27. (original) The conveyor system according to claim 21 wherein the first blade comprises a urethane material.

28. (Currently amended) A cleaning blade for bearing simultaneously against a roller and a conveying surface on a conveying belt which, against which matter bears to

be conveyed by the conveying belt as the conveying belt is moving in a travel path, to strip foreign matter therefrom, the cleaning blade comprising:

a body having a mounting portion which is attachable to a support, a first portion projecting in a first direction away from the mounting portion, and a second portion projecting away from the mounting portion generally oppositely to the first direction,

the first portion defining a first free end to engage a roller,

the second portion defining a second free end to engage the conveying surface of
a conveying belt,

the first portion and second portion defined by a single piece.

29. (currently amended) A cleaning blade for bearing simultaneously against a roller and a conveying surface on a conveying belt which is moving in a travel path to strip foreign matter therefrom, the cleaning blade comprising:

a body having a mounting portion which is attachable to a support, a first portion projecting in a first direction away from the mounting portion, and a second portion projecting away from the mounting portion generally oppositely to the first direction,

the first portion defining a first free end to engage a roller,

the second portion defining a second free end to engage the conveying surface on
a conveying belt,

wherein the mounting portion has an axis about which the cleaning blade can be pivotably mounted.

30. (original) The cleaning blade according to claim 28 wherein the cleaning blade has a thickness that diminishes from the mounting portion toward the first free end of the cleaning blade.

31. (currently amended) A cleaning blade for bearing simultaneously against a roller and a conveying surface on a conveying belt which is moving in a travel path to strip foreign matter therefrom, the cleaning blade comprising:

a body having a mounting portion which is attachable to a support, a first portion projecting in a first direction away from the mounting portion, and a second portion projecting away from the mounting portion generally oppositely to the first direction,

the first portion defining a first free end to engage a roller,

the second portion defining a second free end to engage the conveying surface on a conveying belt,

wherein the cleaning blade has a thickness that diminishes from the mounting portion toward the first free end of the cleaning blade,

wherein the cleaning blade has a thickness that diminishes from the mounting portion toward the second free end of the cleaning blade.

32. (original) The cleaning blade according to claim 29 wherein the cleaning blade has a concave surface.

33. (original) The cleaning blade according to claim 28 wherein the cleaning blade comprises a urethane material.

34. (currently amended) The cleaning blade according to claim 1 wherein ~~the one wall has an axial extent relative to the rotational axis of the first roller and the one~~ elongate opening extends over substantially the entire axial extent of the one wall.

35. (previously presented) A conveyor system comprising:
a conveying belt trained around guide rollers for movement in a travel path;
a first roller which is mounted in an operative position on a support to bear against the conveying belt; and
a roller support system comprising at least one wall which confines downward movement of the first roller in the event that the first roller becomes disengaged from the operative position,
the roller support system defining at least one opening through which foreign matter separated from the first roller can pass,
the roller support system comprising first and second independent blades that define the at least one wall.